

CLAIMS:

1 I A modular server system, comprising:
2 a midplane having a system management bus and a plurality of blade interfaces;
3 a plurality of server blades connected to said blade interfaces, with each server
4 blade having a server blade system management bus connected to said system
5 management bus; and
6 a storage blade connected to one of said blade interfaces, said storage blade
7 having a storage blade system management bus connected to said system management
8 bus, said storage blade to store operating system (OS) software for said plurality of server
9 blades.

2. The modular server system of claim 1, wherein each server blade comprises a provisioning module to provision each server blade with said OS software.

1 3. The modular server system of claim 1, wherein said storage blade comprises:

2 a hard disk drive;

3 a hard disk drive controller; and

4 a provisioning module to provision each server blade with said OS software.

1 4. The modular server system of claim 3, wherein said hard disk drive is one of a
2 plurality of hard disk drives configured as a redundant array of independent discs (RAID)
3 system.

1 5. The modular server system of claim 4, wherein said RAID system is a level five
2 RAID system.

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1 6. The modular server system of claim 4, wherein said RAID system includes a
2 compact disc read only memory (CD-ROM).

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1 7. The modular server system of claim 4, wherein said provisioning module
2 comprises:

3 a connection module to create a connection with a server blade;
4 an identification module to determine an identifier for said server blade;
5 a search module to retrieve an OS identifier associated with said server blade
6 identifier; and
7 a loading module to retrieve an OS associated with said OS identifier from said
8 RAID system and load said identified server blade with said OS.

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1 8. The modular server system of claim 7, wherein a plurality of server blades use a
2 same OS.

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1 9. The modular server system of claim 7, wherein a plurality of server blades use a
2 different OS.

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1 10. A storage blade, comprising:
2 a hard disk drive:

3 a hard disk drive controller; and
4 a provisioning module to provision a plurality of server blades with OS software
5 stored on said hard disk drive.

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1 11. The storage blade of claim 10, wherein said hard disk drive is one of a plurality of
2 hard disk drives configured as a redundant array of independent discs (RAID) system.

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1 12. The storage blade of claim 11, wherein said hard disk drive controller is a RAID
2 controller.

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1 13. The storage blade of claim 12, wherein said RAID system is a level five RAID
2 system.

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1 14. The storage blade of claim 13, wherein said RAID system includes a compact disc
2 read only memory (CD-ROM).

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1 15. The storage blade of claim 13, wherein said provisioning module comprises:
2 a connection module to create a connection with a server blade;
3 an identification module to determine an identifier for said server blade;
4 a search module to retrieve an OS identifier associated with said server blade
5 identifier; and
6 a loading module to retrieve an OS associated with said OS identifier from said
7 RAID system and load said identified server blade with said OS.

PROOF OF SERVICE

- sub 1 > 16.* A method to provision a plurality of servers, comprising:
2 receiving a request to load an operating system (OS) from each of a plurality of
3 server blades;
4 determining an identifier for each of said plurality of server blades;
5 searching for an OS identifier associated with said server blade identifier;
6 retrieving an OS from a storage system using said OS identifier; and
7 loading each server blade with its retrieved OS.
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1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said receiving comprises:
2 creating a connection between each of said server blades and said storage system;
3 and
4 receiving said request over said connection.
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1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein said determining comprises receiving said
2 server blade identifier with said request from each server blade.
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1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein said server blade identifier is a dynamic host
2 configuration protocol (DHCP) address.
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1 20. The method of claim 16, wherein said searching comprises searching for said OS
2 identifier in an OS identifier list.
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1 21. A method to provision a plurality of servers, comprising:

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2 creating a connection with a storage blade, said storage blade having a plurality of
3 operating system (OS) software;
4 sending a request to provision said server blade with one of said OS software; and
5 receiving OS software in response to said request.

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1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said request includes a server blade identifier
2 and an OS identifier.

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1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein said server blade identifier is a dynamic host
2 configuration protocol (DHCP) address.

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1 24. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 receiving said request at said storage blade;
3 identifying an OS for said server blade using said OS identifier; and
4 sending said OS to said server blade over said connection.

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1 25. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 storing said OS software in memory; and
3 executing said OS software.

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1 26. An article comprising:
2 a storage medium;

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3 said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a
4 processor, result in provisioning a plurality of servers by receiving a request to load an
5 operating system (OS) from each of a plurality of server blades, determining an identifier
6 for each of said plurality of server blades, searching for an OS identifier associated with
7 said server blade identifier, retrieving an OS from a storage system using said OS
8 identifier, and loading each server blade with its retrieved OS.

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1 27. The article of claim 26, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a
2 processor, further result in said receiving by creating a connection between each of said
3 server blades and said storage system, and receiving said request over said connection.

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1 28. The article of claim 26, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a
2 processor, further result in said determining by receiving said server blade identifier with
3 said request from each server blade.

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1 29. An article comprising:

2 a storage medium;

3 said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a
4 processor, result in provisioning a plurality of servers by creating a connection with a
5 storage blade, said storage blade having a plurality of operating system (OS) software,
6 sending a request to provision said server blade with one of said OS software, and
7 receiving OS software in response to said request.

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1 30. The article of claim 29, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a
2 processor, further result in receiving said request at said storage blade, identifying an OS
3 for said server blade using said OS identifier, and sending said OS to said server blade
4 over said connection.

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